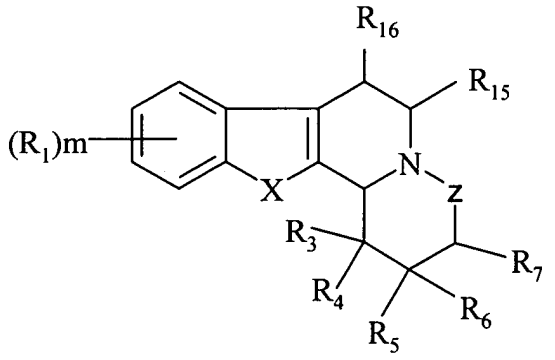
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-39. (Canceled).

40. (New) A compound of formula IA:



IA

wherein,

X is O or S;

Z is -CHR_8-;

R_1 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halogen, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, and carboxyl;

R_3 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, NH_2, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino,mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-

C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

wherein the (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl group is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN and NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy and (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 is chosen from H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

wherein the (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN and NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents, R_9,

wherein R_9 are each independently chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl and oxo;

R_6 is chosen from H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy and (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is chosen from H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy and (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_8 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_{15} is chosen from H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl and carboxyl;

R_{16} is chosen from H and (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent; and

m is 0 to 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

41. (New) The compound according to claim 40, wherein X is O.

42. (New) The compound according to claim 40, wherein X is S.

43. (New) The compound according to claim 40, wherein R_3 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-

and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and R_4 chosen from is (C_1-C_6)alkyl and hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl.

44. (New) The compound according to claim 40, wherein R_3 is chosen from hydroxy, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and R_4 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl.

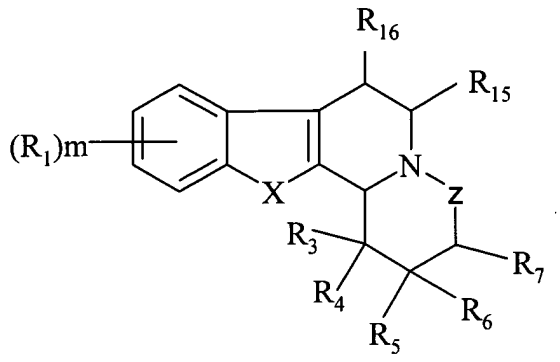
45. (New) The compound according to claim 40, wherein R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed six membered saturated carbocyclic ring.

46. (New) The compound according to claim 40, wherein the compound is 1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ol, (1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (-)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (+)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, 1α-Isopropyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b-Hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ol, 1α-Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ol, (1α-Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (1-Hydroxymethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl]-methanol, 1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (-)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (+)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, 1α–Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b̃-α-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester, 1-Ethoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (-)-(1α-

Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (+)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, 1α–Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene-1-carboxylic methyl ester, 1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (-)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (+)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (1α-Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene-1-yl)-methanol or acetic acid 1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ylmethyl ester.

47. (New) The pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier and/or excipient.

48. (New) A method for the treatment of a disease or condition where an antagonist of the alpha-2C adrenoceptor is indicated to be useful, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula IA:



IA

wherein,

X is O or S;

Z is -CHR_8-;

R_1 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halogen, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, and carboxyl;

R_3 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, NH_2, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino,mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

wherein the (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl group is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-

C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN and NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy and (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 is chosen from H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

wherein the (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN and NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents, R_9,

wherein R_9 are each independently chosen from hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl and oxo;

R_6 is chosen from H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is chosen from H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_8 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_{15} is chosen from H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl and carboxyl;

R_{16} is chosen from H and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent; and

m is 0 to 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

49. (New) The method according to claim 48, wherein the disease or condition is chosen from a mental disorder propagated by stress, Parkinson's disease, depression, schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, post-traumatic stress-disorder, anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette's syndrome, blepharospasm and other focal dystonias, temporal lobe epilepsy with psychosis, drug-induced psychosis, Huntington's disease, disorders caused by fluctuation of the levels of sex hormones, and panic disorder.